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General Assembly

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A/RES/53/202
12 February 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 30

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.73)*]

53/202. The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997 and decision 52/477 D of 6 May 1998,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform,[1] and the note by the Secretary-General on a Millennium Assembly, the United Nations system (Special Commission) and a Millennium Forum,[2]

Convinced that the year 2000 constitutes a unique and symbolically compelling moment to articulate and affirm an animating vision for the United Nations in the new era,

Also convinced that a Millennium Assembly would provide an opportunity to strengthen the role of the United Nations in meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century,

1. *Decides* to designate the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly "The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations";

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[1] A/51/950 and Add.1-7.

[2] A/52/850.

2. *Also decides* to convene, as an integral part of the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations, a Millennium Summit of the United Nations for a limited number of days on dates to be decided by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-third session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, members of the specialized agencies and observers and to propose, after a process of intergovernmental consultation, a number of forward-looking and widely relevant topics that could help to focus the Millennium Summit within the context of an overall theme, for consideration by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-third session;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consult with non-governmental organizations, as appropriate, before the submission of his proposals;

5. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the item entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals", and agrees that a decision on the intergovernmental preparatory process, in particular its format and terms of reference, ensuring the full and effective participation of all Member States, members of the specialized agencies and observers in preparing for the Millennium Assembly, should be taken at the earliest opportunity by the General Assembly at its resumed fifty-third session;

6. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session a sub-item entitled "The Millennium Assembly of the United Nations" under the item entitled "United Nations reform: measures and proposals".

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A/RES/53/203 A-B
12 February 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda items 20 (*c*) and 45

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.66 and Add.1)*]

53/203. Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

A

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/140 of 20 December 1994, 50/88 B of 19 December 1995, 51/195 B of 17 December 1996 and 52/211 B of 19 December 1997,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1193 (1998) of 28 August 1998 and 1214 (1998) of 8 December 1998 and all statements of the President of the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan,

Noting all recent declarations by participants of regional international meetings and by international organizations on the situation in Afghanistan,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Convinced that there is no military solution to the Afghan conflict and that only a political settlement aimed at the establishment of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government acceptable to the Afghan people can lead to peace and reconciliation,

Stressing the importance of non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and deeply concerned at all forms of continued external support, which is causing the prolongation and intensification of the conflict,

Expressing its grave concern at the failure of all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to put an end to the conflict, which seriously threatens stability and peace in the region, and strongly condemning the sharp escalation of this conflict and the intensification of the fighting in Afghanistan, which add to the enormous suffering of the Afghan people, resulting in the massive loss of human life, refugee flows, killing, harassment, the forcible displacement of innocent civilians and extensive destruction, and seriously threaten stability and peace in the region,

Also expressing its grave concern at persistent violations of human rights and breaches of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, as exemplified by reports of mass killings and atrocities committed by combatants against civilians and prisoners of war,

Further expressing its grave concern at the continuing and substantiated reports of systematic discrimination against girls and women, particularly in areas controlled by the Taliban,

Deeply concerned by the increasingly ethnic nature of the conflict, by reports of persecution on the grounds of ethnic origin and religious persuasion, in particular against the Shiites, and by the threat this poses to the unity of the Afghan State,

Strongly condemning the armed attacks against United Nations personnel in territories controlled by the Taliban, in which United Nations staff members were murdered or injured,

Also strongly condemning the capture by Taliban militia of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mazar-e Sharif and the killing of diplomatic and consular personnel of the Consulate-General and the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency, and stressing that these unacceptable acts constitute violations of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations[1] and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,[2]

Deeply disturbed by the continuing use of Afghan territory for the sheltering and training of terrorists as well as for the cultivation, production and trafficking of drugs, and by the dangerous repercussions of these activities, which reach Afghanistan's neighbours and far beyond,

Reiterating that the United Nations, as a universally recognized and impartial intermediary, must continue to play the central role in international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 500, No. 7310.

[2] Ibid., vol. 596, No. 8638.

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts made in this regard by the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan and by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan,

Welcoming the contacts between the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan and various non-warring Afghan parties and personalities, and supporting calls by these independent Afghans for an end to the fighting and any proposals that might advance the cause of peace, including the convening of a genuine *loya jirgah* to promote a political settlement,

Expressing its appreciation for the commitment in support of and in coordination with the United Nations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in Afghanistan, especially the missions to Afghanistan undertaken jointly by the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference,

Welcoming the recent exchange of prisoners between the Afghan parties,

Recalling paragraph 13 of its resolution 52/211 B requesting the Secretary-General to continue to investigate fully reports about mass killings of prisoners of war and civilians and incidents of rape in Afghanistan and to include his findings in his next report to be submitted to the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[3] and endorses the observations and recommendations set out therein;

2. *Stresses* that the main responsibility for finding a political solution to the conflict lies with the Afghan parties, and urges all of them to respond to the repeated United Nations calls for peace;

3. *Calls upon* all Afghan parties to cease immediately all armed hostilities, to renounce the use of force and to engage, without delay or preconditions, in a political dialogue under United Nations auspices aimed at achieving a lasting political settlement of the conflict through creating a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government, which would protect the rights of all Afghans and observe the international obligations of Afghanistan;

4. *Welcomes* the recent exchange of prisoners between the Afghan parties, and urges them to take further confidence-building measures;

5. *Urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to refrain from all acts of violence, especially against civilians;

6. *Condemns* the fact that foreign military support to the Afghan parties continued unabated through 1998, and calls upon all States strictly to refrain from any outside interference and immediately to end the supply of arms, ammunition, military equipment, training or any other military support to all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, including the presence and involvement of any foreign military, paramilitary or secret service personnel;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to authorize the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, established under resolution 48/208 of 21 December 1993, to continue its efforts to facilitate an immediate

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[3] A/53/695–S/1998/1109; see *Official Records of the Security Council, Fifty-third Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1998*, document S/1998/1109.

and durable ceasefire among the Afghan parties and to institute a negotiating process leading to the formation of a broad-based, multi-ethnic and fully representative government of national unity;

8. *Endorses* the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish, taking into account security conditions, a separate civil affairs unit by adding a new monitoring function to the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan, with the primary objective of deterring grave violations of human rights and promoting respect for minimum humanitarian standards in the future, and to send an assessment mission to Afghanistan, as soon as security conditions permit, in order to determine the exact mandate, composition and location of the civilian monitors;

9. *Welcomes* the continuing commitment of the United Nations to facilitate the political process towards national reconciliation and a lasting political settlement with the participation of all parties to the conflict and all segments of Afghan society, and reaffirms its full support for the comprehensive efforts of the Secretary-General, the activities of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and those of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan;

10. *Welcomes* in this regard the constitution of groups of interested States, in particular the "six plus two" group, to coordinate their efforts, as well as the activities of international organizations, in particular the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the initiatives of its Secretary-General, and urges these States and organizations to continue to use their influence in a constructive manner in support of and in close coordination with the United Nations to promote peace in Afghanistan;

11. *Calls upon* the Taliban to provide security guarantees to enable an investigation to be carried out under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the reports of massacres of innocent civilians and of mass executions of prisoners of war as well as on reports of killings in Mazar-e Sharif and Bamian;

12. *Urges* all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to demonstrate their full commitment to the safety and security of all international and humanitarian personnel, which is a prerequisite for their activities in Afghanistan, to facilitate their work;

13. *Takes note* of the Supplementary Protocol to the Memorandum of Understanding of 13 May 1998, signed by the United Nations and the Taliban on the security of United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, and urges the Taliban to take the necessary steps for its full implementation;

14. *Urges* the Taliban to proceed with the immediate and thorough investigation of the death, serious injury or disappearance of international or national staff members and other persons employed by the United Nations, in particular the killing of the two Afghan staff members of the World Food Programme and of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Jalalabad and of the Military Adviser to the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan in Kabul, and to keep the United Nations regularly informed about the progress of its investigation;

15. *Strongly condemns* the killing of the diplomatic and consular staff of the Consulate-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mazar-e Sharif and the correspondent of the Islamic Republic News Agency, which the Taliban has accepted as having been perpetrated by its militia, urges the Taliban to inform the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations about the result of its investigation to date, and calls upon the Taliban to cooperate fully with an international investigation of

the murder of the Iranian diplomats and the Islamic Republic News Agency correspondent with a view to prosecuting the guilty parties;

16. *Urges* the Taliban and other Afghan parties to recognize, protect and promote all human rights and freedoms, including the right to life, liberty and security of persons, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion;

17. *Calls upon* all parties, in particular the Taliban, to end discriminatory policies and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of men and women;

18. *Condemns* the continuing widespread violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, and urgently calls upon all parties to respect strictly all its provisions that provide essential protection for the civilian population in armed conflicts;

19. *Demands* that all parties, in particular the Taliban, stop harbouring and permitting the training of terrorists and their organizations and that all Afghan parties cooperate with efforts to bring indicted terrorists to justice;

20. *Reiterates its call* to all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to halt all illegal drug activities and to support international efforts to ban illicit drug production and trafficking;

21. *Reiterates* that the cultural and historic relics and monuments of Afghanistan belong to the common heritage of mankind, calls upon all Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to protect the cultural and historic relics and monuments of Afghanistan from acts of vandalism, damage and theft, and requests all Member States to take appropriate measures to prevent the looting of cultural artifacts and to ensure their return to Afghanistan;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every three months during its fifty-third session on the progress of the United Nations Special Mission and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fourth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1998

B

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/140 of 20 December 1994, 50/88 A of 19 December 1995, 51/195 A of 17 December 1996 and 52/211 A of 19 December 1997,

Expressing its grave concern about the continuation of the military confrontation in Afghanistan, threatening regional peace and security and causing massive loss of life and extensive human suffering, further destruction of property, serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, refugee flows and other forcible displacements of large numbers of people,

Deeply disturbed by insufficient security conditions for United Nations personnel and other humanitarian personnel and by various restrictions of access imposed on them,

Deeply disturbed also by the closure of the Kabul offices of international non-governmental organizations, the expulsion of foreign workers and the arrest of local personnel, which have caused the non-governmental organizations to curtail their much-needed help to the civilian population of Kabul,

Remaining deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance as well as the continued laying of new landmines in Afghanistan, which continue to prevent many Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons from returning to their villages and working in their fields,

Expressing its grave concern at the grave violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan and at the inadequacy of measures taken by the warring factions to reverse the situation,

Deeply concerned by the continuing and substantiated reports of violations of human rights, in particular of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them, and welcoming the decision of the United Nations to appoint gender and human rights advisers as an integral part of the office of the United Nations resident and humanitarian coordinator in Afghanistan,

Noting with deep concern the adverse effects of human rights violations on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan as well as refugee repatriation programmes,

Expressing its grave concern for the well-being of internally displaced persons and the civilian population of Afghanistan without shelter, who face a long winter possibly deprived of basic foods, owing, *inter alia*, to the looting of United Nations premises and food supplies and to the denial by the warring factions of adequate conditions for the delivery of aid by humanitarian organizations,

Distressed by the loss of life caused by earthquakes and floods, and expressing its appreciation to all States, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that provided emergency relief,

Affirming the urgent need to continue, if conditions permit, international humanitarian assistance and action to assist Afghanistan in restoring basic services,

Welcoming the principle-centred approach towards humanitarian assistance and rehabilitation in Afghanistan as outlined in the Strategic Framework and in the document entitled "Next Steps for the United Nations in Afghanistan", and the common programming mechanisms introduced by the United Nations,

Expressing its gratitude to all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, in particular the Governments of Pakistan and of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and recognizing the need for

continuing international assistance for the maintenance abroad and the voluntary repatriation and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons,

Expressing its appreciation to all States, the United Nations system, international organizations and non-governmental organizations that have responded positively and continue to respond, where conditions permit, to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts in mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[3] and endorses the observations contained therein;

2. *Calls upon* all relevant organizations of the United Nations to continue to coordinate closely their humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan on the basis of the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, in particular to ensure a consistent approach on matters of principle, human rights and security, and appeals to donor countries as well as other humanitarian organizations to cooperate closely with the United Nations;

3. *Calls upon* the leaders of all Afghan parties to place the highest priority on national reconciliation, acknowledging the desire of the Afghan people for rehabilitation, reconstruction and economic and social development;

4. *Demands* that all Afghan parties respect international humanitarian law and that they, in particular the Taliban, ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of all humanitarian personnel and the protection of property of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, and cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with other humanitarian organizations and agencies in their efforts to respond to the humanitarian needs of the people of Afghanistan;

5. *Condemns* all blockades or other interference in the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies to the Afghan people as a violation of international humanitarian law, and notes the recent lifting of the blockade in central Afghanistan by the Taliban;

6. *Urges* all Afghan parties to ensure safe and unimpeded access for and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance, in particular the supply of food, medicine, shelter and health care and to prevent the looting of United Nations premises and food supplies;

7. *Takes note* of the Supplementary Protocol to the Memorandum of Understanding of 13 May 1998, signed by the United Nations and the Taliban on the security of United Nations personnel in Afghanistan, and urges the Taliban to take the necessary steps for its full implementation;

8. *Denounces* the continuing discrimination against girls and women and religious minorities and other violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, while noting with deep concern their adverse effects on international relief and reconstruction programmes in Afghanistan, and calls upon all parties within Afghanistan to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments,

inter alia, the International Covenants on Human Rights[4] and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[5]

9. *Strongly urges* all of the Afghan parties to end discriminatory policies and to recognize, protect and promote the equal rights and dignity of women and men, including their rights to full and equal participation in the life of the country, freedom of movement, access to education and health facilities, employment outside the home, personal security and freedom from intimidation and harassment in particular with respect to the implications of discriminatory policies for the distribution of aid;

10. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan integrates a gender perspective and that it actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men, and that women benefit equally with men from such assistance;

11. *Expresses concern* over the continued laying of landmines and urges all Afghan parties to put a complete halt to the use of landmines, which continues to take a heavy toll on civilians and seriously impedes the delivery of humanitarian assistance;

12. *Urgently appeals* to all States, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, when conditions on the ground permit, all possible financial, technical and material assistance for the Afghan population and the voluntary, safe and secure return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to respond to the inter-agency consolidated appeal for emergency humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance for Afghanistan to be launched by the Secretary-General for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1999, bearing in mind the availability also of the Afghanistan Emergency Trust Fund;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the cluster of items on coordination of humanitarian assistance, the item entitled "Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan".

93rd plenary meeting
18 December 1993

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[4] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[5] Resolution 34/180, annex.